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[May 11, 2017 DOI MAC Data Call.docx](#)
[Utah RAC DOI Data Call 5-17-17.docx](#)

Hi Twinkle,

Attached is Utah's information in response to the DOI FACA/Non-FACA Group data call request. This includes the National Defense Authorization Act Community Group, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee and the Utah Resource Advisory Council.

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Thank you,
Lola Bird
BLM Utah External Affairs
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BLM Utah Resource Advisory Council
DOI Info Request on FACA and Non-FACA-Related Advisory Bodies
May 17, 2017

The Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC), established on Oct. 1, 1995, is a 15-member advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues for 22.9 million acres of Federal public lands in Utah.

The Utah Resource Advisory Council is composed of 15 members distributed in a balanced fashion among the following interest groups: Category I - Federal grazing permits or leases, transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, OHV users, commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry, or energy and mineral development; Category II - nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation activities, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups; Category III - state, county, or locally elected office-holders, employee of a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized, academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences, or the public-at-large. There are currently six vacancies, two in category I, two in category II, and two in category III.

The RAC members were carefully selected based on expertise, experience, and overall familiarity with public land management issues to be able to provide advice to the BLM's Utah State Director on resource and land management issues.

The Utah RAC serves as an independent group that represents all resources and strives to provide balanced recommendations. RAC members build trust with the public because they are an authorized entity but not an integrated part of the Federal government. Their recommendations on policy and implementation have proven helpful and have been adopted.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) requires the Department of Agriculture and Interior establish a Recreation RAC (RRAC) to provide advice and recommendations on recreation fees and fee areas in each State or region for Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the BLM or U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The law allows the agencies to use existing RACs or establish new RRACs. For the State of Utah, the existing statewide BLM RAC has been designated to perform RRAC responsibilities pertaining to both BLM- and USFS-managed Federal lands and waters per the national interagency agreement between the USFS and BLM. The RRAC role is part of a larger public participation role described in FLREA. The Utah statewide RAC is also referred to as the RRAC. During FY 2016, the RRAC approved a no minimum camping fee for the Lonesome Beaver and McMillan Springs campgrounds.

Also in FY 2016, the RAC made recommendations to the BLM Utah State Director regarding the Three Creeks Grazing Allotment Proposal, the Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment, and made recommendations to the BLM Washington Office regarding the Planning 2.0 proposal.

The BLM's Utah RAC is an effective partner in helping resolve public land issues that affect the quality of life in the West. The Utah RAC has been an excellent way to keep citizens engaged in the resource issues facing the public lands.

At the February 2017 Utah RAC meeting, committee members discussed the following items that were to be carried forward to the next meeting as agenda items for additional discussion: recreation donation policy and travel management planning.

The Utah RAC was scheduled to meet on May 22 and 23, but the Federal Register Notice was never published so the meeting did not take place. No meetings are currently scheduled for the remainder of FY 2017.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Response
DOI Info Request on FACA and Non-FACA-Related Advisory Bodies
May 17, 2017

- The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan (MMP), signed by the Secretary of the Interior in November 1999 and effective February 2000, directed that a Monument Advisory Committee (MAC), chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, be established to advise and aid Monument managers on science issues and the achievement of Management Plan objectives.
- As specified in the Committee charter, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee (GSENMAC) may be requested to: (1) Gather and analyze information, conduct studies and field examinations, seek public input or ascertain facts to develop recommendations concerning the use and management of the Monument; (2) review programmatic documents including the annual Monument Manager's Reports, and Monument Science Plans to provide recommendations on the achievement of the Management Plan objectives; (3) Compile monitoring data and assess and advise the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the extent to which the Plan objectives are being met; (4) Make recommendations on Monument protocols and applicable planning projects to achieve the overall objectives are being met; (5) Review appropriate research proposals and make recommendations on project necessity and validity; (6) Make recommendations regarding allocation of research funds through review of research and project proposals as well as needs identified through the evaluation process; (7) Consult and make recommendations on issues such as protocols for specific projects, e.g., vegetation restoration methods or standards for excavation and curation of artifacts and objects; and/or (8) Prepare an annual report summarizing the Committee's activities and accomplishments of the past year, and make recommendations for future needs and activities.
- The 15-member MAC is comprised of one representative from each of the following categories: An elected official from Garfield County, an elected official from Kane County, State of Utah, Tribal, Livestock permittees, Outfitter-Guide permittees, Education, and Environmental; and one scientist representing the fields of Archaeology, Botany, Geology, Paleontology, Social Science, Systems Ecology and Wildlife Biology. Of the positions currently filled, six are from southern Utah (Kane and Garfield Counties), three from central/northern Utah, one from northern Arizona, and two from Colorado. There are currently three vacancies – Botany, Social Science, and an elected official from Garfield County.
- Among the recommendations prepared by the MAC are a comprehensive report on using Adaptive Management Strategies in Science, a Livestock Grazing report, and numerous recommendations ranging from manning strategies for Monument visitor centers to gaining Dark Sky recognition for the Monument.
- By charter, the MAC meets between two and four times per year; and is currently meeting four times to advise Monument management on the development of the on-going Livestock Grazing Management Monument Management Plan Amendment and

Associated Environmental Impact Statement, as well as other projects in process including the 19,000-acre Skutumpah Terrace Restoration Project. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 4-5, 2017, in Escalante, Utah, but has not been noticed in the Federal Register.

National Defense Authorization Act – Community Group
Departmental Information Request
May 17, 2017

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (NDAA 2017), section 3005 directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Community Resource Advisory Group (Community Group) to provide input on matters involving public access to, use of, and overall management of the BLM land affected by the NDAA 2017. Section 3005 states,

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established the Utah Test and Training Range Community Resource Advisory Group (referred to in this section as the “Community Group”) to provide regular and continuing input to the Secretary and the Secretary of the Air Force on matters involving public access to, use of, and overall management of the BLM land.

A briefing held on Feb. 13, 2017 with the BLM Washington Office leadership provided direction for BLM Utah to begin work with local Department of Defense (DOD) Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) leadership to meet the intent and requirements of the NDAA 2017. Since that briefing, UTTR Commander Colonel Chris Gough and BLM West Desert District Manager Kevin Oliver, have worked throughout the process closely with local County Commissioners, State of Utah representatives and other stakeholders to outreach, seek nominations, and make recommendations for selections to this Community Group. The process of selection involved many conversations, meetings and inquires crosscutting the spectrum of stakeholders.

The recommended community group is a twelve-member resource advisory group and is a product of a rigorous outreach strategy by the UTTR and the BLM. There are five designated seats, which include a tribal representative, representative County Commissioners from Box Elder, Tooele, and Juab Counties, and a Utah Department of Agriculture representative. There are also seven open seats in three categories: Off Road, Hunting, Recreation; Livestock Permittees; and Other Stakeholder Groups. The groups represented are Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Cattlemen’s Association, State of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Utah Mining Association, and the Utah Farm Bureau.

The BLM West Desert District has drafted a letter, which is currently under review by the UTTR Commander. This letter will officially stand up the community group and set up the initial meeting as either June 6, 8, or 14, 2017.

The community group’s first item of business will be to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) required by the legislation. Kevin Oliver and Colonel Gough have drafted the MOA, but are holding for input from the group before finalization.

The NDAA 2017 section 3005 (d)(4) specifies that the community group is exempt from Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). It states that FACA shall not apply to meetings.